



Brush Management

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho

ID- 314-JS

May 2008

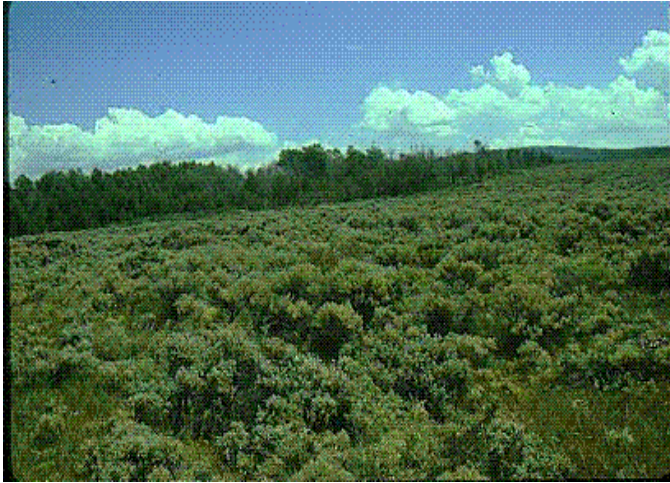


Photo courtesy of NRCS

Brush Management is the removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants to:

- restore a natural plant community balance
- create a desired plant community
- restore desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality and enhance stream flow
- maintain or enhance wildlife habitat including that associated with threatened and endangered species
- improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock
- manage fuel loads to create desired conditions

Project will consider impacts on native wildlife species such as sage grouse, mule deer, pygmy rabbit, pronghorn antelope, Brewer's sparrow and sage thrasher. NRCS will consult with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to help identify possible wildlife conflicts related to brush management.

Brush management will be planned and applied as part of a Resource Management System (RMS) using the guidelines provided in the Brush Management (314) standard to achieve

the desired plant community's plant density, canopy cover or height, and meet the habitat requirements of the wildlife species of concern and not adversely affect threatened or endangered species or their habitat.

Brush management will be applied to achieve the desired control of the target woody species and protection of desired species. Methods to accomplish this are mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed burning or a combination of these methods. Mechanical treatment will require a cultural resource review.

Brush management generally will not be considered on any species unless canopy cover exceeds 25% using the Line - Point Intercept (ID-CPA-016) for treatment area.

The brush management plan may require additional practices such as fencing and range planting to achieve the desired plant community and meet resource objectives. Prescribed Grazing (528), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), and other needed practices shall be applied to the RMS level to ensure the desired response from treatments. The plan will include the following components:

- The brush management objectives including desired plant community
- A resource inventory that demonstrates the target shrub species percent composition by weight significantly exceeds the composition listed in the ecological site description
- The method of brush management
- Dates or growth periods for effective treatment
- Acceptable alternative materials, equipment and methods

- Types of areas and kinds and amounts of brush and trees that should be favored for wildlife habitat, livestock and other resource needs
- Patterns and kinds of plants to be left and maintained for wildlife food and cover
- Prescribed Grazing management to follow brush management treatment and other maintenance needed.

- Idaho Biology TN 19 range evaluation or other suitable wildlife evaluation guide
- Wildlife species utilizing project site and habitat provided

Refer to the following NRCS National web site for Wildlife Leaflets describing wildlife habitat needs for specific species:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ECS/database/technotes.html>

Certification

I certify that I have reviewed and understand the minimum requirements of the Conservation Practice Standard 314, Brush Management.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Conservationist: _____

Date: _____